

**REMARKS**

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Claims 4 and 5 have been amended, claims 14 through 17 have been added, and the abstract has been amended. No new matter has been presented herein.

The abstract has been objected to because it should contain only one paragraph. The abstract has been amended to contain only one paragraph, and letter and number references have been deleted. Therefore, it is requested that this objection should be withdrawn.

Claims 4-7 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Klein et al. (US Pat. No. 4,252,415), and also under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Danner (US Pat. No. 2,193,393). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections. It is believed that these claims, as well as new claims 14-17, are not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), for the following reasons.

Both Klein and Danner are distinguishable from the instant claims because neither reference teaches or suggests a “vacuum glass panel,” as required in amended claims 4 and 5. Further, neither Klein nor Danner is concerned with the problem, nor does either reference teach or suggest a solution, associated with the adhesive property (wettability) of the low temperature melting glass for the glass sheets addressed by the instant invention. That is, neither Klein nor Danner discloses or suggests a vacuum glass panel which comprises a low temperature melting glass which bulges from each peripheral edge of a pair of glass sheets into the gap, made by suctioning gas from said gap or by pressing peripheral edges of the glass sheets together, towards the central regions of the glass sheets, which thereby avoids the formation of a concave face with weak sharp edge portions, as is required by the claims.

Any one of these differences distinguish Klein and Danner from claims 4 and 5, and it is requested that the 35 U.S.C. §102(b) rejections of claims 4 and 5 be withdrawn. Since claims 6 and 7 depend from claims 4 and 5, respectively, it is requested that the 35 U.S.C. §102(b) rejections of claims 6 and 7 be withdrawn, because these claims recite additional differences from the prior art.

With respect to new claims 14 and 15, these claims incorporate, in part, the subject matter of claims 8 and 9 respectively, which were not rejected as being anticipated by either Klein or Danner. Therefore, it is believed that claims 14 and 15 are not subject to rejection by either Klein or Danner under 35 U.S.C. §102(b). Since claims 16 and 17 depend from claims 14 and 15, respectively, it is believed that none of claims 14-17 are subject to the anticipation rejection over Klein or Danner.

Additionally, claims 4-9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Demars (US Pat. No. 5,643,644). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. It is believed that these claims, as well as new claims 14-17, are not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), for the following reasons.

Demars is distinguishable from the instant claims, because Demars is not concerned with the problem, nor does the reference teach or suggest a solution, associated with the adhesive property (wettability) of the low temperature melting glass for the glass sheets addressed by the instant invention. That is, Demars does not disclose or suggest a vacuum glass panel which comprises a low temperature melting glass which bulges from each peripheral edge of a pair of glass sheets into the gap, made by suctioning gas from said gap or by pressing peripheral edges of the glass sheets together, towards the central regions of the glass sheets, which thereby avoids the formation of a concave face with weak sharp edge portions, as is required by the claims.

Accordingly, this difference distinguishes Demars from claims 4 and 5, and it is requested that the 35 U.S.C. §102(b) rejection of claims 4 and 5 be withdrawn. Since claims 6-9 depend from either claim 4 or claim 5, respectively, it is requested that the 35 U.S.C. §102(b) rejection be withdrawn, because these claims recite additional differences from the prior art.

Demars is distinguishable from new claims 14 and 15, because Demars does not teach or suggest “a low temperature melting glass having a viscosity of  $10^{10}$  Pascal/sec (Pa · s) or less at a melted condition,” as required by new claims 14 and 15. Further, Demars is not concerned with the problem, nor does the reference teach or suggest a solution, associated with the adhesive property (wettability) of the low temperature

melting glass for the glass sheets addressed by claims 14 and 15, as discussed *supra*. In view of the foregoing differences, it is submitted that the present invention now recited in new independent claims 14 and 15, is patentably distinct over Demars.

Accordingly, these differences distinguish the cited prior art from new claims 14 and 15, and it is believed that these new claims are not subject to rejection by Demars under 35 U.S.C. §102(b). Since claims 16 and 17 depend from claims 14 and 15, respectively, it is believed that none of claims 14-17 are subject to the anticipation rejection over Demars.

Further, claims 8 and 9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Danner in view of Demars. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. It is believed that these claims, as well as new claims 14-17, are not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), for the following reasons.

The arguments advanced above regarding the 35 U.S.C. 102(b) rejections are equally applicable to the 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejection. As combined, Danner and Demars do not teach or suggest the claimed invention. In particular, since Danner does not teach or suggest a “vacuum glass panel,” and neither Danner nor Demars are concerned with the problem, nor does either reference teach or suggest a solution, associated with the adhesive property (wettability) of the low temperature melting glass for the glass sheets addressed by the instant invention, as required by claims 8 and 9 (as discussed *supra*), the combination of these two references fails to teach all of the elements of claims 8 and 9.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that Danner in view of Demars, falls far short of what is needed to make out a *prima facie* case of obviousness, and it is requested that the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of claims 8 and 9 be withdrawn.

With respect to new claims 14-17, Danner and Demars do not teach or suggest the claimed invention, as combined. Specifically, since claims 14-17 are not subject to rejection by Danner, as discussed *supra*, and because Demars does not teach or suggest “a low temperature melting glass having a viscosity of  $10^{10}$  Pascal/sec (Pa · s) or less at a melted condition,” as required in claims 14-17, nor is Demars concerned with the problem, or teach or suggest a solution, associated with the adhesive property

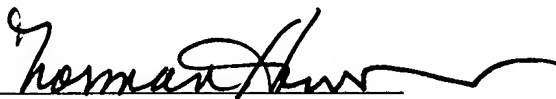
(wettability) of the low temperature melting glass for the glass sheets addressed by claims 14 and 15, the combination of these two references fails to teach all of the elements of claims 14 and 15.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that Danner in view of Demars, falls far short of what is needed to make out a prima facie case of obviousness, and it is believed that none of claims 14-17 are subject to the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection over Danner in view of Demars.

In view of the foregoing, withdrawal of all rejections and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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